Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Evans Government Center Auditorium, Evans, Georgia

Present at the meeting included:
Chairman Douglas R. Duncan, Jr.
Vice Chairman Connie M. Melear
Commissioner Donald Skinner, Sr.
Commissioner Michael W. Carraway
Commissioner Alison G. Couch
County Manager Scott Johnson
Deputy County Manager Matt Schlachter
Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy
County Attorney Chris Driver
County Clerk Patrice R. Crawley

Division Directors:
Scott Sterling – Planning Services
Paul Scarbary - Development Services
Kyle Titus - Engineering Services
Chief Jeremy Wallen - Fire Services
Michael Blanchard - Technology Services
Stacey Gordon - Water Utility Services
County Staff

Members of the Media and Public

A. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. INVOCATION
Vice Chair Melear gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
County Manager Johnson led the pledge to the American Flag.

D. ROLL CALL / QUORUM
Chairman Duncan declared a quorum with five Commissioners present.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(E1) September 17, 2024
Vice Chair Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(F1) Item H2a moved from Consent to I2a4 Debate and the addition of Item I3a Exempt Employees Hours Worked During County Closure.
County Manager Johnson requested to move Item H2a from Consent to I2a4 Debate and add Item I3a Exempt Employees Hours Worked During County Closure. Chairman Duncan presented the agenda with the requested changes.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

H. CONSENT AGENDA
In accordance with Columbia County Code of Ordinance Section 2-81(6), the following items were voted on collectively. Vice Chair Melear made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(H1) Community and Emergency Services Committee

(H1a) Animal Services Donation
Approved the acceptance of a donation in the amount of $2,000 for the spay/neuter and medical needs of animals.

(H2) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H2a) ~~Amend Documents for Insurance Broker Name Change from Acrisure, LLC to Acrisure Southeast Partners Insurance Services, LLC~~. - Moved to Debate
This item was moved to Debate Item I2a4 during the approval of the agenda.

(H2b) Appointment of Barry A. Fleming to serve on the Hospital Authority
Approved the appointment of Barry A. Fleming to the Hospital Authority.

(H2c) Fiscal Year 23/24 Required Budget Adjustment for Audit
Approved the fiscal year 23/24 required budget adjustment for the audit.

(H2d) Accept the 2024 ACCG Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund Employee Safety Grant Award
Approved the acceptance of the 2024 ACCG Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund employee safety grant award.

(H2e) Agreement with Pictometry International Corp. dba EagleView for the Disaster Response Program
Approved an agreement with Pictometry International Corp. dba EagleView for the Disaster Response Program in the amount of $40,320.

(H3) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H3a) Alcoholic Beverage License, Gregory M Parker Inc dba Parker's #107
Approved an alcoholic beverage license for Gregory M Parker Inc dba Parker's #107.

(H4) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(H4a) Purchase an 140HP Influent Pump from Xylem Water Solutions, USA., Inc. for the Little River Plant
Approved the purchase of an 140HP influent pump for Xylem Water Solutions, USA., Inc. for the Little River Plant in the amount of $104,090.40; 511.5115.601081.

(H4b) Adding a Cell Phone Allowance to Position Number 743, Foreman II
Approved the addition of a cell phone allowance in the yearly amount of $720 for Water Utility position number 743, Foreman II.

(H4c) Adding a Cell Phone Allowance to Position Number 2193, Crew Leader II
Approved the addition of a cell phone allowance in the yearly amount of $720 for Water Utility position number 2193, Crew Leader II.

(H4d) Resolution 24-40A and Project Delivery Agreement with GDOT for Stevens Creek Rd at Evans to Locks Rd Intersection Improvements, PI 0017526
Approved Resolution 24-40A and Project Delivery Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation for intersection improvements at Stevens Creek Road at Evans to Locks Road, PI 0017526.

(H4e) Lighting Services Agreements with Georgia Power for New Parking Lot Lighting to serve the Board of Elections on Range Road and for Upgrading Existing Roadway Lighting on Range Road and Columbia Road.
Approved the Lighting Services Agreements with Georgia Power for new parking lot lighting to serve the Board of Elections at 205 Range Road and for upgrading existing roadway lighting in the vicinity with an upfront installation costs of $4,772 and annual utility cost of $3,072; 2342710.522080.20502.

(H4f) Independent Contractor Agreement with Bluewater Engineering for Design Services related to the Wrightsboro Rd (SR 223) at Louisville Rd Turn Lanes Improvement Project
Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Bluewater Engineering for design services related to Wrightsboro Road at Louisville Road turn lanes improvement project in the amount of $62,625.

(H4g) 2024 Radar Permit Amendments and to authorize the Engineering Services Director to sign the amendment request and associated re-submittals
Approved the 2024 Radar Permit amendments and to authorize the Engineering Services Director to sign the amendment request and associated resubmittals if necessary.

(H4h) Community Rating System (CRS) Re-Certification

Approved the Community Rating System re-certification.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) Unfinished Business

(I1a) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I1a1) Ordinance Number 24-02 Amending Chapter 46 Health and Sanitation, Article V Body Art Section 46-117 Client Files - *Second Reading*
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance Number 24-02 Amending Chapter 46 Health and Sanitation, Article V Body Art Section 46-117 Client Files. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2) New Business

(I2a) Management and Internal Services Committee

(I2a1) Resolution Number 24-44 Local State of Emergency for Tropical Storm Helene
Vice Chair Melear made a motion to ratify Resolution Number 24-44 Local State of Emergency for Tropical Storm Helene. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2a2) Contract Amendment Number 1 with Ceres Environmental Services for Disaster Debris Management Services
Vice Chair Melear made a motion to ratify contract amendment number 1 with Ceres Environmental Services for disaster debris management services and to authorize the County Manager to execute any future Notices to Proceed as necessary. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2a3) Commercial Emergency Work Authorization with Servpro of Augusta for Savannah Rapids Pavilion
Vice Chair Melear made a motion to ratify all agreements entered into with Servpro of Augusta for Savannah Rapids Pavilion. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2a4) Amend Documents for Insurance Broker Name Change from Acrisure, LLC to Acrisure Southeast Partners Insurance Services, LLC.
Vice Chair Melear made a motion to approve the amended documents for insurance broker name change from Acrisure, LLC. to Acrisure Southeast Partners Insurance Services, LLC. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. Commissioner Carraway abstained. Chairman Duncan, Vice Chair Melear and Commissioners Skinner and Couch voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

(I2b) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I2b1) AP24-08-01, Appeal to a denial of a business license for CSRA Motor Sports, 3413 Washington Road, Tax Map 082D Parcel 033, 0.67 +/- acres, and currently zoned C-2 (General Commercial).
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to disapprove a business license for CSRA Motor Sports for property located at tax map 082D parcel 033. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. Chairman Duncan opposed the motion. Vice Chair Melear, Commissioners Skinner, Carraway and Couch voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

(I2b2) RZ24-08-02, Major PUD (Planned Unit Development) Revision, 785 Jones Creek, Tax Map 078 Parcel 057A, 0.81 +/- acres, and currently zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development).
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to allow the applicant to withdraw the request without prejudice. Vice Chair Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b3) RZ24-09-06, Rezoning from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to S-1 (Special), 1238 Furys Ferry Road, Tax Map 077 Parcel 024, 0.23 +/- acres and currently zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential).
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the request for the rezoning from R-1 to S-1 for a portion of property located at tax map 077 portion of parcel 024. Vice Chair Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b4) VA24-09-08, Variance to Section 18-312 *Lot Size and Setbacks,* 1238 Furys Ferry Road, Tax Map

077 Parcel 024, 0.23 +/- acres and currently zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential).
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the request for a variance to Section 18-312 for a portion of property located at tax map 077 portion of parcel 024 to reduce the required setbacks for a wireless communications tower per the plan provided. Vice Chair Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b5) VA24-09-05, Variance to Section 90-98 *List of lot & structure requirements*, 464 North Belair Road, 470 North Belair Road, & 4390 Hereford Farm Road, Tax Map 072A Parcels 026A, 061, & 062, 2.68 +/- acres, and currently zoned C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial).
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the request for a variance to Section 90-98 for property located at tax map 072A parcels 026A, 061, & 062 to remove the maximum building setback in the Evans Town Center Overlay District subject to the following condition: The subject parcels shall be combined and a copy of the combination plat provided to the Planning Department prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Vice Chair Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b6) VA24-09-07, Variance to Sections 74-79 *Relation to present, proposed, and future street system*, 74-82 *Lots*, & 90-53 *List of lot & structure requirements*, 4586 Coldwater Street, Tax Map 051 Parcel 1534, 0.51 +/- acres, and currently zoned R-2 (Single Family Residential).
Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the request for a variance to Sections 74-79, 74-82, & 90-53 for property located at tax map 051 parcel 1534 to reduce the required buffer and setback along the shared lot line with Baker Place Road to 20 feet to allow space for the construction of a proposed pool. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I3) Items Added at the Meeting

(I3a) Exempt Employees Hours Worked During County Closure
Vice Chair Melear made a motion to pay exempt employees for hours worked above the official closure hours received. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

(L1) Sandra Maran concerning grant requests to FEMA
Sandra Maran requested assistance from the county to apply for FEMA grants.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Property

(M1a) Robert & Holly Brown parcel 050039F for Little Kiokee Creek gravity sewer line.
Commissioner Carraway made a motion to accept the donation from Robert & Holly Brown parcel 050039F for Little Kiokee Creek gravity sewer line. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1b) Estate of Charles E. Simpson parcel 031067E for the temporary and permanent easements for Sawdust Road water line to tank.
Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve $400 to Estate of Charles E. Simpson parcel 031067E for the temporary and permanent easements for Sawdust Road water line to tank; 57037.25.015.685. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1c) Marc Smith parcel 060077, Brenda Kitt-Brightharp parcel 067C121 and Laura & Frank Pizzi parcel 0671408 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.
Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve $8,500 to Marc Smith parcel 060077, $18,500 to Brenda Kitt-Brightharp parcel 067C121 and $135,000 to Laura & Frank Pizzi parcel 0671408 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1d) Michael & William Demota parcel 072233, and Christy & Donald Reynolds, Jr. parcel 067013

to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.
Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve $19,900 to Michael & William Demota parcel 072233, and $65,000 to Christy & Donald Reynolds, Jr. parcel 067013 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1e) George Snelling parcel 062086J to obtain right of way for the Gateway Boulevard extension project.
Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve $255,000 to George Snelling parcel 062086J to obtain right of way for the Gateway Boulevard extension project. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1f) Agreement of Purchase and Sale with Comcast for 2 acres located at parcel 074C059.
Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve the Agreement of Purchase and Sale with Comcast for 2 acres located at parcel 074C059 in the amount of $90,000. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT
Commissioner Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman

Patrice R. Crawley
Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk